Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition, for use in tumour therapy, comprising an inhibitor of osteonectin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said inhibitor has an activity selected from decreasing expression of osteonectin in tumour cells, decreasing secretion of osteonectin from tumour cells, reducing the activity of osteonectin expressed in tumour cells, binding to a target of osteonectin and binding to osteonectin itself.

3. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the inhibitor prevents or decreases expression of osteonectin.

4. A composition according to Claim 3 wherein the inhibitor prevents or decreases transcription of osteonectin DNA, or prevents or decreases translation of osteonectin mRNA into osteonectin.

5. A composition according to Claim 3 or 4 wherein said inhibitor comprises a polynucleotide able to bind to osteonectin mRNA so as to prevent or decrease translation of said mRNA into osteonectin.

6. A composition according to Claim 5 wherein said polynucleotide is an antisense RNA complimentary to osteonectin mRNA.

7. A composition according to Claim 3 or 4 wherein said inhibitor is conjugated to or administered in combination with a carrier molecule.

8. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein said carrier molecule has a function selected from increasing solubility of the inhibitor, increasing uptake into a cell of the inhibitor, slowing or preventing breakdown of the inhibitor, and facilitating manufacture of the inhibitor.

9. A composition according to Claim 3 or 4 wherein the inhibitor blocks initiation of transcription of osteonectin at the gene level.

10. A method of tumour therapy comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of an inhibitor of osteonectin.

11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein said inhibitor has an activity selected from decreasing expression of osteonectin in tumour cells, decreasing secretion of osteonectin from tumour cells, reducing the activity of osteonectin expressed in tumour cells, binding to a target of osteonectin and binding to osteonectin itself.

12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein the inhibitor prevents or decreases expression of osteonectin.

13. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the inhibitor prevents or decreases transcription of osteonectin DNA, or prevents or decreases translation of osteonectin mRNA into osteonectin.

14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13 wherein said inhibitor comprises a polynucleotide able to bind to osteonectin mRNA so as to prevent or decrease translation of said mRNA into osteonectin.

15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein said polynucleotide is an antisense RNA complimentary to osteonectin mRNA.

16. A method according to Claim 12 or 13 wherein said inhibitor is conjugated to or administered in combination with a carrier molecule.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein said carrier molecule has a function selected from increasing solubility of the inhibitor, increasing uptake into a cell of the inhibitor, slowing or preventing breakdown of the inhibitor, and facilitating manufacture of the inhibitor.

18. A method according to Claim 12 or 13 wherein the inhibitor blocks initiation of transcription of osteonectin at the gene level.

19. A method of cancer therapy according to any of claims 10-18.

20. Use of an inhibitor of osteonectin in manufacture of a medicament for tumour cell therapy.

21. Use according to Claim 20 for cancer therapy.

22. Use according to any of Claims 20-21 wherein said inhibitor has an activity selected from decreasing expression of osteonectin in tumour cells, decreasing secretion of osteonectin from tumour cells, reducing the activity of osteonectin expressed in tumour cells, binding to a target of osteonectin and binding to osteonectin itself.

23. An antisense polynucleotide able to bind to osteonectin mRNA so as to prevent or reduce translation of said mRNA by a cell.

24. An antisense polynucleotide according to Claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.

25. A vector, for use in tumour cell therapy, capable of transferring genetic material into a cell, wherein expression of said genetic material results in a decrease or inhibition of osteonectin activity in the cell.

26. A vector according to Claim 25 which is a plasmid or a viral vector.

27. A vector according to Claim 25 or 26, for expression of an antisense polynucleotide according to Claim 23 or 24.

28. A vector according to any of Claims 25-27 for cancer therapy.

29. A composition for use in tumour cell therapy, comprising cells that have been transformed with a vector of any of Claims 25-28.

30. A composition for use in tumour cell therapy, comprising an extract of cells that have been transformed with a vector of any of Claims 25-28.

31. A method of preparing a composition for tumour cell therapy, comprising transforming a cell with a vector of the invention, so that the transformed cell expresses the genetic material of the vector, and formulating the cell in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. A pharmaceutical composition, for use in tumour therapy, comprising a compound capable of stimulating a tumour cell to express IL-8, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. A method of tumour therapy comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound that stimulates a tumour cell to express IL-8.

34. A pharmaceutical composition, for use in tumour therapy, comprising a compound capable of stimulating a tumour cell to express GROα, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. A method of tumour therapy comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound that stimulates a tumour cell to express GROα.